

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 L-03 JUSE-00 SS-15 NSC-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/BC/B:JRBINNS

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APPROVED BY ARA/BC:JWFISHER

S/NM:NWARNER (DRAFT)

DEA: JSTRICKLER (DRAFT)

ARA:GLISTER

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TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134220

BUENOS AIRES FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BL

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: ARREST OF BOLIVIAN CONSULAR OFFICIAL
AND POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OTHER BOLIVIANS (CASE NO C1-73-
OO42)

1. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) ADVISED DEPARTMENT
THAT HONORARY BOLIVIAN VICE CONSUL IN FORT LAUDERDALE,
JORGE SARAVIA PENARANDA, UNDER INDICTMENT ON CHARGE OF
CONSPIRING TO SMUGGLE NARCOTICS AND IS PRESENTLY IN PRO-
TECTIVE CUSTODY. SARAVIA HAD BEEN INDICTED EARLIER AND
WAS DETAINED IN JANUARY 1973 WHEN ENTERING U. S. AT MIAMI.
WHEN ADVISED OF PENDING INDICTMENT, SARAVIA CONFESSED
AND OFFERED TO COOPERATE WITH U. S. ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.
HE WAS RELEASED AND SINCE THAT TIME HAS BEEN WORKING WITH
U.S. OFFICIALS. INFORMATION HE IS PROVIDING IS EXPECTED
TO RESULT IN ADDITIONAL INDICTMENTS, INCLUDING TWO
BOLIVIANS FORMERLY HOLDING CONSULAR APPOINTMENTS, JAIME
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MENDOZA AND JOSE KENNETH PENARANDA. DEA BELIEVES MENDOZA

AND PENARANDA PRESENTLY IN BOLIVIAN AND THAT MENDOZA MAY HOLD GOB POSITION.

2. DEPARTMENT ADVISED BOLIVIAN EMBASSY OF SARAVIA'S INDICTMENT JULY 6 AND POUCHED MEMO TO POST. BOLEMB SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED THAT SARAVIA WAS COOPERATING WITH U.S., BUT WAS NOT INFORMED POSSIBLE INDICTMENT FORMER CONSULAR OFFICIALS AT REQUEST OF DEA. ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY, SOUTHERN DISTRICT NY HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY BOLIVIAN CONSUL REGARDING SARAVIA, AND WILL ADVISE CONSUL THAT SARAVIA IS IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY. CONSUL WILL ALSO BE TOLD SARAVIA'S INFORMATION RESULTED IN SECURING WARRANT FOR IMPORTANT ECUADORIAN TRAFFICKER AND FURTHER INDICTMENTS MAY RESULT FROM HIS DEBRIEFING. CONSUL WILL BE ALLOWED TO SEE SARAVIA, IF HE SO DESIRES.

3. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS DEA WISHES TO REQUEST GOB TO TURN MENDOZA AND PENARANDA OVER TO U.S. FOR PROSECUTION. DEA ADVISED EXISTING EXTRADITION TREATY DOES NOT COVER NARCOTICS OFFENSES AND, IN ANY CASE, SPECIFICALLY PROVIDES THAT THE PARTIES ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO EXTRADITE THEIR OWN NATIONALS. DEPARTMENT ALSO SUGGESTED THAT GOB WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO TURN OVER ITS NATIONALS TO U.S. ON EXTRA-LEGAL BASIS.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON MENDOZA OR PENARANDA, TOGETHER WITH EMBASSY'S VIEWS AS TO ADVISABILITY OUR APPROACHING GOB TO GAIN CUSTODY OF SUBJECTS.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT DISCUSS POSSIBLE INDICTMENT OF MENDOZA AND PENARANDA WITH GOB. ROGERS

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